

German Plot to Buy Wool Crop of World Foiled

Arrest of Rich Importer Here Reveals Gigantic Scheme

American Firms Used as Dummies

Product Stored for Use During or After the War

A gigantic plot of German industrial interests, backed by the imperial German government, to buy up the world's output of wool for military use now and commercial use after the war, was disclosed yesterday with the arrest in this city of Eugene Schwerdt, a millionaire wool importer, as a dangerous alien enemy.

Commercial firms in the United States and American business men, it is alleged, were employed by the plotters as "dummy" purchasers in South America and South Africa of the wool destined for German clients of the Deutsche Bank, one of the largest financial institutions in Germany.

The wool, \$3,000,000 worth of which had already been purchased and stored in the United States alone, was to be smuggled through to Germany for clothing the Kaiser's hordes, now said to be clad in uniforms of cotton, paper and lace.

Through the supply was to be held in storage here until peace was declared, then shipped to Germany, to combat the commercial war after the war threatened by the Allies.

Cargoes Reached Germany. Large shipments of wool were, indeed, made to Germany under the plan. Early in 1915, according to documents in the hands of the Federal authorities, two cargoes of the material, one by the steamer "H. Luckenbach," reached Germany and were used for military purposes.

During the first two years of the war, it is further shown, German agents were able to purchase wool in the British colonies, apparently with the greatest ease. Documentary evidence is on hand to the effect that the quantity of the wool was stored in London itself, before transshipment, and was paid for with money drawn on London banks.

The boldness of the plan appears to have been more successful in Great Britain than here. Of the vast quantity of wool stored here, very little could be run out to the British blockade, and it remained in storage. When the price of the commodity rose steeply it was sold by its German purchasers, and the money sent to Germany for aid in prosecution of the war.

The papers show that Schwerdt went so far as to arrange for the charter of a North German Lloyd steamer to carry the wool to Germany a certain length of time after the outbreak of the war and that the length of the contract was the only bar to the success of this scheme.

Other revelations, together with others equally startling, bring into prominently the names of Hugo Schwerdt, American representative of the Deutsche Bank, now interned, and Hermann Albert, former Privy Councillor and German financial agent here, were made public yesterday by Deputy Attorney General Alfred L. Becker, of New York, in a report to United States Attorney General Gregory.

Arrested in Wall Street Office. It was upon the information contained in this report, after an investigation of Schwerdt's affairs, that the latter was arrested.

When he was taken in charge by deputy marshals yesterday at his luxurious office at 79 Wall Street, Schwerdt vehemently protested his innocence, declaring he was a Belgian, and that in the air service of that country and was strongly pro-Ally in thought and action.

"What does this mean?" he protested. "Where is the Constitution of the United States? Am I to have no trial?" Importer was handled, unceremoniously, into an automobile, papers and documents seized in the room and his office filled another motor, and the two cars sped to the Federal Building.

The Schwerdt family, it was said, he was an American, and, when he was taken in charge, he was taken to the Federal Building. After examination by Assistant United States Attorney Schuchman Schwerdt was taken to the Tombs.

Although Schwerdt, according to the Attorney General's report, resided for thirty years in Belgium, where he was in the wool business in 1914, shortly after the outbreak of the war, he came to this country in the guise of a Belgian and immediately, correspondence showed, communicated with the German spy masters here to put on foot the plan for the wholesale roundup of wool in the interests of Germany.

Son Aiding Father's Scheme. The son, Schwerdt, pointed to as in the Belgian aviation, is shown by the report to be an active participant in the scheme. He wrote to his father, who in South America prove conclusively that the younger man, trading on his father's name, had been in the wool business in 1914, shortly after the outbreak of the war, he came to this country in the guise of a Belgian and immediately, correspondence showed, communicated with the German spy masters here to put on foot the plan for the wholesale roundup of wool in the interests of Germany.

Man Dies From Blow In Fight in Subway. George Wegman, forty-two years old, of 249 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn, was knocked down yesterday afternoon during an altercation on the Canal Street station platform of the B. R. T. subway and died a few hours later in Hudson Street Hospital.

Wegman and an unidentified man collided as they tried to get aboard a train. A fight followed and Wegman was sent to the platform by a blow on the jaw. He was knocked unconscious and died from a fracture at the base of the skull. The other man has disappeared.

Somebody Is Always Taking the Joy Out of Life

By BRIGGS



Shoes and Ships And Sealing Wax

Socialists of Chicago have been asked to contribute a million pair of shoes to the 10,000,000 now needed by the Bolsheviks of Russia. Sporting stores may be able to furnish a good cross-country racing model.

Spring is here, by order of the United States War Department. Orders have been received at Camp Devens directing that revolve be sounded hereafter at 6:45 instead of 6:15.

Miss Helen Moller, dancing at the Metropolitan Opera House yesterday, controlled the War Department.

Supreme Court Justice A. E. R. Seeger, of Orange County, issued an order against himself, requiring him to show Supreme Court Justice Seeger cause why Mrs. Sarah Hawks, of Maybrook, N. Y., should not be locked up for illicit liquor dealing.

White or the county bench Mrs. Hawks was brought before Judge Seeger, after pleading guilty was released. Later Justice Seeger, who had an order from Justice Seeger to bring the order against himself.

North Hempstead, which boasts of more dogs to the square mile than any other town on Long Island, has passed a law requiring the licensing of its 3,000 canine inhabitants before March 1. Unless the dogs are licensed by that time, the law provides, they are to be disposed of by the justice of the peace. Justice of the Peace Arthur W. Jones broke into loud means when he had read that far in the law yesterday, and thus addressed himself to the town board.

"When I took this job I was supposed to do nothing but hold court, attend meetings of the town board, help make the laws and serve as acting coroner. I didn't think that I would have to be dog catcher, as well as a marksman to shoot them, and an undertaker to bury them. I can't keep them all in my coop. They'll eat all my chickens." Police Department Lie Smith then offered to dispose of the unlicensed critters for \$2 a piece. The town board is still debating on the subject.

Must Be Americans First. "You can easily see what would happen in this country if the people of every nationality coming here should retain their own solidarity and vote together and as separate groups. It would lead to ruin. Our institutions would go by the board."

What Is Going On To-day. MEATLESS DAY, WITH ONE MEAT WHEAT. Free admission to the American Museum of Natural History, 200th Street, New York City, from 10 to 6 P. M. American Museum of Natural History, 200th Street, New York City, from 10 to 6 P. M. American Museum of Natural History, 200th Street, New York City, from 10 to 6 P. M.

Government Investigated. Schwerdt's Boston Office. BOSTON, Feb. 25.—Leon Brin, manager of the Boston office of Eugene Schwerdt, wool merchant, arrested in New York to-day, said that Schwerdt's affairs had been under investigation by government authorities for some time but so far as he knew no books and papers had been seized here. Copies had been made of some papers, he said.

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Kaiser Called Hexamer His Ruler in U. S.

Continued from page 1

1914, and printed in the September 14 issue, in which he urged the establishment of press bureaus in every city, with press agents to "immediately make answer to the harmful attacks by irresponsible reporters for English newspapers."

From page 8, of the October, 1917 issue, he quoted an appeal by the Philadelphia branch of the National German-American Alliance, in which it urged the organization to take up the cause of the German-American Alliance, in which it urged the organization to take up the cause of the German-American Alliance, in which it urged the organization to take up the cause of the German-American Alliance.

Mr. Olinier quoted a letter sent by the organization to the Kaiser, in which it urged the establishment of press bureaus in every city, with press agents to "immediately make answer to the harmful attacks by irresponsible reporters for English newspapers."

That this was the point of view which the organization took toward the Kaiser, it was also ready to accept full responsibility for his share in the lobbying campaigns carried on in the country and in the National German-American Alliance, in which it urged the organization to take up the cause of the German-American Alliance, in which it urged the organization to take up the cause of the German-American Alliance.

On Saturday, Mr. Koellbe stated, he intends to go to Washington and volunteer to testify before the Senate Committee on the German-American Alliance, and it is on this basis that he has been charged with being a pro-German agent, and that he is, in fact, ultra-American—that he purposes to take his stand and demand respect for his country.

With a toss of the head and an impatient gesture he dismisses the charge that the alliance uses its 2,000,000 membership to foist unwelcome bills on this country and intimate legislation.

"We are not a partisan political body," he insisted. "Whatever interest we take in politics is not as an organization, but simply as good American citizens, who ought, after all, to interest themselves in all public matters."

With similar words he explains the German-American Alliance's encouragement of a foreign language press in this country and its nation-wide campaign for extensive teaching of German in the public schools, a campaign which Gustavus Olinier recently testified before the Senate Committee on the German-American Alliance, in which it urged the organization to take up the cause of the German-American Alliance.

That is not Germanism, it is Americanism, protested Mr. Koellbe. "No matter what the German government may be, the German people are a thrifty, honest people, with splendid ideals. The inculcation of these ideals is a desirable thing, a thing that has nothing to do with the German government, who ought, after all, to interest themselves in all public matters."

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phose G. Koellbe, honorary president of the German-American Alliance of the State of New York, and the man who was exposed in March, 1916, as the guiding genius of the pro-German lobby at that time being waged in Washington.

"If the object of these charges is to show that I am anti-British," declared Mr. Koellbe, "the government doesn't need to go in the least way out of its way to substantiate them. It can get all the proof it wants that score directly from me. I'm anti-British, and I still am. I was brought up to be an American-born citizen, and when I went to school I was taught about the War of the Revolution and the Revolution of 1847. I grew up and looked about, I saw that wherever England secured a foothold a light was cast upon the people of that land, from the standpoint of their own nationality. As an American citizen, I don't want to see anything like that happen to this country."

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was said yesterday that steps looking to this end may shortly be initiated. These documents chiefly concern a resolution sent out from the national office of the alliance at Philadelphia at the time the United States first declared a state of war existed with the Imperial German Government.

In the opening paragraphs of this resolution, which is entitled, "Where We Stand," the alliance defined its loyalty in these terms:

"I should know this war is unnecessary and that it is a commercial war prepared and provoked to protect and perpetuate the traffic in munitions, which the Senator acquired on March 5, 1917.

The direct transfer of German money into the Senator's account here is recorded in photographs which Mr. Bolo caused to be taken. They are copies of letters between Bolo and the Senator, in which Bolo offered to lend the Senator \$200,000 in British bonds, which the Senator acquired on March 5, 1917.

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Humbert Obtained Share Of Bolo Pacha's Gold Here

Accused French Senator Received \$170,068 of Spy's Fund, According to Evidence Procured by Attorney General Lewis; Proof Sent to Paris

Charles Humbert, French Senator and former owner of the newspaper "Le Journal," who was arrested in Paris shortly after a French tribunal had decreed that Bolo Pacha must face a firing squad, got \$170,068 of Bolo's gold through a transfer in this city which involved an account carried with J. P. Morgan & Co.

Documentary proof of this, together with a report which shows the French Senator maintained a large account with the house of Morgan, was made public yesterday by Percy Morse, head of the firm of Percy Morse & Co., accountants, under orders from Merton E. Lewis, Attorney General of New York State.

Evidence of this direct deal between the French Senator and Bolo in the United States has been in the hands of French officials for some time. It is believed to have contributed to the recent arrest of Humbert and the seizure of his papers in Paris.

It was turned up by Mr. Morse in his investigation into the ramifications of Bolo's financial affairs here. The report of the Senator's transactions in America was completed last October and turned over to Mr. Lewis, who forwarded it to France. Publication here was withheld at the request of the French government.

Purpose Not Revealed. Mr. Morse said he did not know why Bolo paid Humbert the \$170,068 credited to the Senator's account here. But it is said that it establishes another link in the transaction giving Bolo a share in Humbert's paper, "Le Journal," through which Bolo schemed to sow seeds of Germanism in France.

The investigation revealed that \$189,683 had been deposited to the Senator's account here between August 11, 1915, and July 27, 1917. That period embraces Bolo's greatest activities in behalf of the Kaiser. With the exception of the direct Bolo transfer, the Senator's funds consisted of credits forwarded here from Morgan, Harjes & Co., in Paris. These credits came from time to time and withdrawals for large amounts were made regularly. The Paris investigation which led to the Senator's arrest as an enemy of France may have shown where this money came from and where it went, Mr. Morse suggested.

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opened August 11, 1915. A letter from Morgan, Harjes & Co., Paris, to J. P. Morgan & Co. here, contained an initial credit of \$51,835.85 and solicited the good offices of the house of Morgan in behalf of the Senator, who was characterized as "a very influential member of the French Senate."

Big Transactions Here. Credits and withdrawals from the Senator's account, the source and destination of which may have been revealed by the Paris investigation culminating in Humbert's arrest, were given out by Mr. Morse. They follow:

Credits—September 7, 1915, \$20,855.37; October 16, 1915, \$20,855.37; October 19, 1915, \$20,855.37; November 11, 1915, \$14,599.75, together with credits for interest; March 14, 1916, through the Royal Bank of Canada, under order from Bolo Pacha, \$170,068.03; April 4, 1916, \$9,500.

With the exception of the Bolo money, all credits came from Morgan, Harjes & Co. Withdrawals were for sums ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000, were also paid to Morgan, Harjes & Co. On March 5, 1917, the report of the Senator's transactions in America was completed last October and turned over to Mr. Lewis, who forwarded it to France. Publication here was withheld at the request of the French government.

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Accused Hindu Calls Lansing, Bryan, Tagore

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—Secretary of State Lansing, Postmaster General Burleson, former Secretary of State Bryan and Rabindranath Tagore, Indian poet, will be subpoenaed to testify in the defense of thirty-one persons charged with conspiring to foment revolution against British rule in India, it was announced to-day by Ram Chandra, principal Hindu defendant.

There is some question as to whether Cabinet members can be called as witnesses, but every effort will be made to obtain their depositions, Chandra said.

Secretary Lansing, Postmaster General Burleson and Mr. Bryan will be called in an effort to show that no connection has been established between the alleged conspiracy and the German government and that the State Department has no intelligence of any alleged plot.

Tagore is in Japan, but Chandra said the poet would make every effort to come here to testify.

Secretary Lansing will be called to tell of the circumstances which led to the publication last March of an article in the "New York Times" in which the government had asked the United States for an indemnity of \$1,000,000 for the growth in this country of the alleged conspiracy. Lansing was reported to have told British government representatives that the revolutionary movement here had been effectively suppressed and that the junta in Manila had been broken up.

Mr. Burleson will be questioned regarding reasons which led to the exclusion some time ago from the mails of the "Ghadr" ("Revolution"), the organ of the Ghadr party, which is charged with being the source of alleged conspiracy.

Mr. Bryan will be asked concerning his book, "British Rule in India," portions of which have been introduced as evidence at the trial.

LETTER THAT LINKS HUMBERT AND BOLO

The Royal Bank of Canada. Received. Center William & Cedar Street. G. L. 22. New York, March 14, 1918.

Measures, J. P. Morgan & Co., 23 Wall Street, New York City.

Gentlemen: In accordance with instructions received from Mr. Paul Bolo Pacha, we beg to hand you herewith our check for, \$170,068.03

which kindly place to the credit of Senator Charles Humbert, of Paris, France. Kindly sign the accompanying receipt and return same to bearer.

Yours very truly, J. P. Morgan & Co. Pro Agent.